United Nations A/AC.105/889/Add.15

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 January 2015

Original: English

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Questions on the definition and delimitation of outer space: replies from Member States

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	2
II.	Replies received from Member States	2
	Norway	2
	Ukraine	2

V.15-00428 (E) 270115 280115

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. At the fifty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in 2014, the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space agreed to continue to address to the Governments of member States the following questions (see A/AC.105/1067, annex II, para. 15 (b)):

(a) Does your Government consider it necessary to define outer space and/or to delimit airspace and outer space, given the current level of space and aviation activities and technological development in space and aviation technologies?

(b) Does your Government consider another approach to solving this issue?

(c) Does your Government give consideration to the possibility of defining a lower limit of outer space and/or an upper limit of airspace, recognizing at the same time the possibility of enacting special international or national legislation relating to a mission carried out by an object in both airspace and outer space?

2. The present document has been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of replies received from Norway and Ukraine.

II. Replies received from Member States

Norway

[Original: English]
[17 November 2014]

The response from Norway should be seen in the context of its range of space activities. Currently, the only national launch activity is the launch of suborbital sounding rockets from the rocket ranges at Andøya and Svalbard. As a consequence, Norwegian space law and space law considerations are quite limited in scope.

Question (a). At this point in time, Norway does not have a pressing need to introduce other definitions than what is currently standard.

Question (b). No other approaches are being studied in Norway.

Question (c). Under today's legal regime, sounding rockets are frequently launched from Norwegian soil for scientific measurements or technology demonstration. These rockets have mission tasks both in airspace and outer space.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[10 December 2014]

Question (a). The Government of Ukraine believes that, given the current pace of development in space techniques and technologies, the absence of a definition or delimitation of outer space causes legal uncertainty in international outer space and airspace law. The Government of Ukraine shares the view that there is a need to distinguish outer space from airspace. To prevent disputes between States related to

State sovereignty, the issue of the line of demarcation between the two legal regimes must be resolved.

Question (b). For now, the Government of Ukraine is not considering another approach to resolving this issue.

Question (c). Yes.